

Remarks and Arguments

Claims 1-64 have been presented for examination. Claims 1, 22 and 43 have been amended.

Claims 1, 14-21, 22, 35-42, 43 and 57-64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,216,231 ('231). The examiner comments that all of the recited limitations are disclosed in the cited reference.

The present invention is directed to a system that uses credentials to make a decision whether a user should be allowed access to a resource. In the inventive system, the entity that is responsible for maintaining the credentials "pro-actively" refreshes the credentials so that, at the time of presentation, the credentials will meet any resource-specific constraints required by a recipient of the credentials. This means that the responsible entity must determine which credentials are required and the resource-specific constraints applicable to those credentials including when the credentials must be refreshed. The responsible entity must then obtain the required credentials and insure that these credentials meet the resource-specific constraints including any recency constraints so that when a request for access is made it will not be denied because the credentials do not meet the constraints.

The '231 patent clearly does not operate in this "pro-active" fashion. Instead, it uses a "top-down" approach in which a security policy server periodically sends a short term security policy message (202, '231 Figure 2A) to a revocation authority server 106. This message causes the server 106 to periodically generate a time-stamped validity certificate 215. A user 130 then obtains a copy 210 of certificate 215 and sends the copy to the resource server 140. The resource server then also obtains a copy of the validity certificate 215 and checks it against the copy sent with the request. If the required constraints are not met, then additional actions must be performed as set forth at '231 column 12, line 58 – column 13, line 2. Therefore, it is clear that additional actions may have to be performed, at the time of presentation, in order to authenticate the user. It is these actions that the present invention seeks to avoid.

The claims have been amended to specifically point out this difference. claim 1 is representative. It recites "determining credentials that are required to access resources including resource-specific constraints that indicate when the credentials

must be refreshed, storing in a memory, a ... credential profile including a credential, resource-specific constraints for the credential and related information and ... in accordance with at least one criterion of a refresh policy and prior to a time of presentation of the credential, making a determination, from that credential profile's resource-specific constraints, of whether that credential needs to be refreshed so that, at the time of presentation, that credential will meet the resource-specific constraints ... (emphasis added). As discussed above, the '231 patent discloses a system in which a request may not succeed because constraints are not met. This is because prior to the time of presentation of a credential, no determination is made whether that credential needs to be refreshed as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited '231 patent.

Claims 14-21 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on amended claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they also distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 1.

Independent claim 22 has been amended in the same manner as claim 1 and contains parallel limitations. Therefore, it also distinguishes over the cited reference in the same manner as claim 1.

Claims 35-42 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on amended claim 22 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they also distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 22.

Independent claim 43 has been amended in the same manner as claim 1 and contains parallel limitations. Therefore, it also distinguishes over the cited reference in the same manner as claim 1.

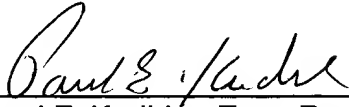
Claims 57-64 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on amended claim 43 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they also distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 43.

Claims 2-13, 23-34 and 44-56 have been indicated as allowable.

In light of the forgoing amendments and remarks, this application is now believed in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below. The examiner is hereby authorized to

charge any fees or direct any payment under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, 1.16 to Deposit Account number 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted



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